

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An interface system for monitoring a number of channels in a communications system having at least one group of a number of nodes, each node having a number of channels, the interface system comprising:
  - a switch for controlling a spectrum analyzer interface with the nodes;
  - a processor electrically coupled to a local interface;
  - a memory electrically coupled to the local interface;
  - a display device electrically coupled to the local interface; and
  - warning interface logic stored on the memory and executable by the processor to control the switch and the spectrum analyzer during automated ~~channel testing~~, the warning interface logic including:
    - logic to enable creation of, based upon user input data, and display of a
    - test plan and a channel plan corresponding to at least one node
    - encompassing all expected values for each service to be
    - operated on said node;
    - logic to generate a channel percent advisory indicator on the display device within a channel level interface component upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated therewith; and
    - logic to generate a channel critical alarm indicator on the display device within a channel level interface component upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated therewith; and
    - logic to conduct automatic, periodic testing of signal characteristics of
    - the at least one node according to the channel plan and the test
    - plan.
2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the warning interface logic further comprises logic to generate a group percent advisory indicator on the display device

in a group level interface component associated with the at least one group upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated with the at least one group.

3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the warning interface logic further comprises logic to generate a node percent advisory indicator on the display device in a node level interface component associated with one of the nodes upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated with the one of the nodes.
4. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the warning interface logic further comprises logic to generate a group critical alarm indicator on the display device in a group level interface component associated with the at least one group upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated with the at least one group.
5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the warning interface logic further comprises logic to generate a node critical alarm indicator on the display device in a node level interface component associated with one of the nodes upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated with the one of the nodes.
- 6-10. (canceled)
11. (currently amended) In a system including a spectrum analyzer and a local interface to which are electrically coupled a switch for controlling the spectrum analyzer, a processor, a memory, and a display device, the memory having stored on it warning interface logic executable by the processor to control the switch and the spectrum analyzer, aAn interface method for monitoring a number of channels in a communications system having at least one group of a number of nodes, each node having a number of channels, the interface method comprising the steps of:  
creating, based upon user input data, and displaying a test plan and a channel plan corresponding to at least one node encompassing all expected values for each service to be operated on said node;  
conducting automatic, periodic testing of signal characteristics of the at least one node according to the channel plan and the test plan;  
generating during automated channel testing a channel percent advisory

indicator on a display device within a channel level interface component upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated therewith; and

generating during automated channel testing a channel critical alarm indicator on the display device within a channel level interface component upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated therewith.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of generating a group percent advisory indicator on the display device in a group level interface component associated with the at least one group upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated with the at least one group.
13. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of generating a node percent advisory indicator on the display device in a node level interface component associated with one of the nodes upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated with the one of the nodes.
14. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of generating a group critical alarm indicator on the display device in a group level interface component associated with the at least one group upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated with the at least one group.
15. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of generating a node critical alarm indicator on the display device in a node level interface component associated with one of the nodes upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated with the one of the nodes.
16. (new) The interface system of claim 1, further comprising logic to conduct more frequent testing of nodes associated with a prior occurrence of advisory events or critical events.

17. (new) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of conducting more frequent testing of nodes associated with a prior occurrence of advisory events or critical events.